

Brinkerhoff Avenue Landmark District



The Brinkerhoff Avenue Landmark District extends over the entirety of Brinkerhoff Avenue, and includes properties on Chapala, De La Vina, Haley and Cota Streets.

INTRODUCTION

The Landmark District centered around Brinkerhoff Avenue is reflective of the growth of residential neighborhoods in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Originally owned by its namesake, Dr. Samuel Brinkerhoff Avenue, the block was purchased by Henry Tallant in 1886, and subsequently subdivided and developed over the next 20 years as low density single family dwellings. With a period of significance ranging from 1886-1913, the district is a turn of the century architectural catalogue, which maintains prime examples of Colonial Revival, National Folk, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Craftsman styles. While originally the street was exclusively residential, in the late 1960's it began to attract a variety of commercial interests who were drawn by the close proximity to State Street. Today, this landmark district retains its original beauty, and is home to an eclectic collection of single family homes, boutiques, galleries, and even a veterinary office.



Brinkerhoff Avenue features many architectural styles including this Folk Victorian building constructed in 1894.

HISTORY

Period of significance: 1886-1913

With the promise of the Southern Pacific Railroad and the completion of Sterns Warf in the mid to late 19th century, land prices in Santa Barbara began to skyrocket. Because of this, many streets west of Lower State Street such as Chapala, De La Vina, and Bath saw large scale development. It was during this time that Brinkerhoff Avenue also began a twenty year period of development. Less than three blocks away from State Street, Brinkerhoff Avenue had easy access to the Warf, the train station, and the trolley line that ran the course of Santa Barbara's downtown neighborhood.

While much of the growth around the downtown area during the 1880-1920 period was built with the expressed purpose of temporarily accommodating the nation's vacationing elites, Brinkerhoff Avenue is noted for its attempt to house the growing permanent population of service industry workers. Henry Tallant is credited with kick starting development on Brinkerhoff Avenue in 1886 by purchasing the unimproved block and subdividing it into eighteen separate lots. By 1900, 11 of the 18 lots on Brinkerhoff Avenue were developed, three homes were added between 1901-1906, two between 1907-1909, and three bungalows were finally added in 1913.

While not the only residential neighborhood of the time, Brinkerhoff Avenue stands out as one of the most well preserved. The range of styles present on Brinkerhoff Avenue exemplifies its broad period of development, with styles including Queen Anne, Italianate, Stick, Craftsman, Folk Victorian, and Colonial Revival. The neighborhood also maintains its original sandstone curbing, and many of the original buildings remain unaltered. Since the mid 1960s, the neighborhood has seen commercial businesses rehabilitate what were once single family homes; all the while maintaining the charm and history that makes Brinkerhoff Avenue a Landmark District.



Above is a Queen Anne house with a sandstone low wall topped with a hedge framing the property. Below is a Folk Victorian with intricate upper sash windows on the front elevation.

